State of Idaho

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NEWS RELEASE

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ADDITIONAL HEALTH CARE REFORM PROVISIONS TAKE EFFECT THIS MONTH

Consumers confused about provisions and timing of implementation dates

BOISE ID (September 13, 2010) – With the first health care reform provisions set to take effect later this month, the Idaho Department of Insurance recognizes that many consumers may find themselves confused about the timing of these implementations.

"Most Americans are not aware of how soon some of the early health care changes may impact them," said Department Director Bill Deal. "Consumers need to understand what to expect and when to consult the Department for more information."

Children with pre-existing conditions may not be excluded from coverage beginning September 23, 2010. Also, adult children up to age 26 may continue coverage under a parent's insurance policy under the new law.

Employees of small business owners may also be confused about what to expect. Employers with fewer than 50 employees are not required by the new law to provide health insurance to staff, and all co-payments for preventive care and checkups are not eliminated.

Medicare beneficiaries will receive new preventive care benefits that will include annual visits free of co-payments, but this is not mandated for all health insurance plans.

To keep up with the complex health reform process that includes multiple implementation phases in the coming years, contact the Idaho Department of Insurance with questions. Visit the health care reform link at www.doi.idaho.gov, or call 334-4250 in Boise, 800-721-3272 toll-free statewide.